

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all listing of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended): A method for protecting digital content, comprising:
providing digital content organized by frames to a rendering unit; [[and]]
altering image content within the rendering unit in response to tags in a data stream provided thereto, wherein the image content is a portion of the digital content visible to a viewer, and the alterations of the image content are not visually perceptible for real-time display, but are visually perceptible in a recorded version thereof,
the step of altering image content further including detecting one of the tags in the data stream associated with a frame in a sequence of frames, a portion of the frame being modified from a preceding frame in the sequence to generate an altered frame;
and
utilizing the tag to access an action table to cause the altered frame to be displayed and the sequence of frames to be displayed as unaltered only if called for by the action table.
2. (Original): The method, according to claim 1, wherein the step of altering comprises randomly selecting frames for alteration.
3. (Previously Presented): The method, according to claim 1, wherein altering comprises removing at least one object visible to the viewer from a frame.
4. (Previously Presented): The method, according to claim 1, wherein altering comprises relocating at least one object visible to the viewer in a frame.
5. (Previously Presented): The method, according to claim 1, wherein altering comprises adding at least one object visible to the viewer to a frame.

6. (Original): The method, according to claim 5, wherein the rendering unit is a graphics processing unit.

7. (Currently Amended): A device for protecting digital content, comprising:

a rendering unit configured to detect tags in a data stream and to associate the detected tags with commands for altering image content, wherein the image content is a portion of the digital content visible to a viewer, and the alterations of the image content are not visually perceptible for real-time display, but are visually perceptible in a recorded version thereof, the rendering unit including a tag detector for detecting the tags in the data stream, one of the tags being associated with one frame in a sequence of frames, a portion of the one frame being altered from a preceding frame in the sequence to generate an altered frame; and

an action table that is accessed utilized to cause the altered frame to be displayed or the sequence of frames to be displayed as unaltered only if called for by the action table.

8. (Original): The device, according to claim 7, wherein the rendering unit includes a table for storing symbols used when associating the detected tags with the commands.

9. (Original): The device, according to claim 8, wherein the rendering unit comprises memory for storing overlays for alteration of the image content.

10. (Original): The device, according to claim 8, wherein the rendering unit comprises a random number generator for randomly selecting when to apply the commands.

11. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the random number generator randomly selects when to apply overlays.

12. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the rendering unit comprises a decryptor.

13. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the rendering unit is configured to detect watermarks and to alter image frames in response to detected watermarks.

14. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the rendering unit detects watermarks and provides a graphical user interface in response to at least one detected watermark.

15. (Original): The device, according to claim 14, wherein the graphical user interface is provide after detecting a threshold number of watermarks.

16. (Original): The device, according to claim 15, wherein the graphical user interface provides a data entry block for entry of a key.

17. (Original): The device, according to claim 16, wherein the rendering unit is configured to down sample in response to a failure to enter an acceptable key.

18. (Original): The device, according to claim 16, wherein the rendering unit is configured to disable recording in response to a failure to enter an acceptable key.

19. (Original): The device, according to claim 16, wherein the rendering unit is configured to randomly alter the selected frames in response to a failure to enter an acceptable key.

20. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a digital video camera.

21. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a digital video disc recorder.

22. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a compact disc recorder.

23. (Original): The recording device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a hard disk drive recorder.

24. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a digital tape drive recorder.

25. (Original): The device, according to claim 10, wherein the device is a floppy disk drive recorder.

26. - 33. (Cancelled)

34. (New): The method of claim 1 wherein a rendering unit causes display of the altered frame upon detection of the tag unless a proper response is entered.

35. (New): The method of claim 34 including the step of applying the tag to a randomizer to randomly apply or ignore the tag or send the tag to the action table.

36. (New): The method of claim 1 including the step of, in response to the detection of the tag, invoking a graphical user interface (GUI) to allow a user to enter a key to prevent the action table from being accessed so that the unaltered frames are not displayed.